strengthen the capability of Indian scientists and scientific institutions for research and development in the latest technological developments and scientific tools so as to enable the Indian scientists to find solutions to the problems India is facing in some of the important health areas. The VAP is only an R&D programme and does not have any commercial activity under it.

(e) Yes Sir; some apprehensions have been expressed against the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme.

(f) The Government have carefully reviewed the apprehensions that have been expressed against VAP. It has become clear that these apprehensions are generally based on wrong assumptions, incorrect facts and certain misinformation about the VAP. To provide the critics and the general public with correct facts, as well as the Government's own stand on VAP, the Government has issued two Press Releases on 19-8-87 and 27.9.87. Copies of these Press Releases are annexed as Appendix I and AppendixII. [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 14 and 15] The Indo-US VAP would be implemented to serve our national interest of establishing a strong indigenous capability in the area of research & development in new vaccines and diagnostics against some of the major communicable diseases of high concern to us The Govt. have also created a high level Apex Body, which would also be the Indian side of the Joint Working Group which would also have experts as well as representatives of the Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, ICMR and other agencies. This Apex Body will act as the apex clearing/approval agency before any proposal is even put up before the Joint Working Group.

632 [*Transferred to the 18th November.* 1987]

Deployment of additional troops by Pakistan in Siachin

633. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the unsuccessful attack by Pak forces in Siachen Sector, Pakistan had deployed in October this year additional troops, specially trained in glacial warfare, opposite to the Ladakh Sector along Khapalu and Leema Sectors in Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is Govtrnment's information in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Government have seen some reports about Pakistan having increased its military strength in the Pak occupied Kashmir opposite Ladakh.

(c) Government keep a close watch on all developments in the Siachen Glacier area and take necessary steps to meet any threat.

Per Capita Plan Allocation to the States

634 SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise per capita Central Plan allocation during the Sixth Plan period and the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the reasons why West Bengal's share in the Central Plan allocation is one of the lowest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN